

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 031255Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2001

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 14537

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BG

SUBJ: COUP ATTEMPT IN BANGLADESH

1. INDIANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY REPORTED COUP MOVE WITHIN BANGLADESH MILITARY TODAY. SENIOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS WERE OUT PLAYING GOLF THIS MORNING. NO GOI COMMENT HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING ALTHOUGH INDIAN WIRESERVICES HAVE CARRIED REPORTS OF BLACKOUT IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH BANGLADESH SINCE THIS MORNING AND CLOSURE OF BANGLADESH AIRPORT. ALL GOVT OFFICES ARE OFFICIALLY CLOSED TODAY FOR MAJOR DIWALI HOLIDAY (AND SOME NEWSMEN HAVE SPECULATED ON COINCIDENCE THAT MUSTAQUE'S COUP IN AUGUST ALSO TOOK PLACE ON MAJOR INDIAN HOLIDAY).

2. WE DO NOT EXPECT INDIAN MOVE TO INTERVENE AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY SINCE INDIANS APPARENTLY WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AND SINCE IT APPEARS GOI IS NOT SURE EVEN

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OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BANGLADESH. HOWEVER IF FIGHTING

BREAKS OUT AND EXTENDS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, RISKS
OF INDIAN INTERVENTION MAY INCREASE.

3. CONGEN CALCUTTA WAS INFORMED BY SENIOR CALCUTTA
POLICE OFFICER NOV 3 THAT ALTHO GOVT OF WEST BENGAL
HAD LITTLE INFO AS TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING ACROSS THE
BORDER, CALCUTTA POLICE HAD BEGUN DRAWING UP CON-
TINGENCY PLANS TO HANDLE A REFUGEE INFLUX FROM
BANGLADESH. OFFICIAL SAID THAT THUS FAR THERE HAD BEEN
NO MOVEMENT OF INDIAN SECURITY FORCES ADJOINING THE
BANGLADESH BORDER AREA.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES OUR EARLIER ASSESSEMENTS(NEW
DELHI 14274) OF CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO ANY SIGNIFICANT
INDIAN INTERVENTION ARE STILL VALID. WE WOULD CERTAINLY
ANTICIPATE SOME PRECAUTIONARY ALERT ALONG
INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER (AS THERE WAS AFTER AUGUST 15)
ON THE PART OF INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCES IF
CURRENT SITUATION IS NOT PROMPTLY RESOLVED.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE14537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-1154
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751180/aaaacucv.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUP ATTEMPT IN BANGLADESH
TAGS: PINS, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006